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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/479,214	01/07/2000	MASAHIRO IWADATE	862.3202	2786

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EXAMINER

FOSTER, JUSTIN B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/479,214

Applicant(s)

IWADATE, MASAHIRO

Examiner

Justin Foster

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 17-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 17-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3 and 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maniwa, *et al.* (4,860,119). With regard to claim 1, Maniwa discloses an image output apparatus comprising an image generator (printer engine 90 of figure 12) adapted to generate image data based upon input data transmitted from an information processing apparatus (column 17, lines 52-53); a controller (printer controller 130, figure 12) adapted to receive and control output of the image data that has been generated by said image generator (column 16, lines 29-31); and an image forming unit (inherent in printer engine 90, figure 12) adapted to record an image on a recording medium based upon the image data inputted from said controller. Maniwa further discloses (column 39, lines 16-20) the situation wherein the printer controller issues the printer engine an initialization command in response to the detection of an error.

3. With regard to claim 3, Maniwa discloses the invention as stated in claim 1. Maniwa further discloses (column 39, lines 51-57) that the controller may start a communication error processing if the printer engine does not send the response to an instruction within 1 second. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for said controller to judge that an error has occurred in said image generator if an instruction

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that has been transmitted to said image generator is not responded to in a predetermined period of time. This would establish an easy way to determine if an error has occurred.

4. With regard to claim 18, Maniwa discloses the invention as stated in claim 1. Maniwa further discloses a display unit (control panel 11, figure 9) adapted to display a screen image on which a user inputs an instruction (column 10, lines 29-31), wherein said controller issues said image generator the order to execute initialization or to restart in response to an instruction to initialize or to restart said image generator with said display unit (column 10, lines 47-53).

5. With regard to claim 19, Maniwa discloses the invention as stated in claim 18. Maniwa further discloses wherein said image generator transmits a display request for said display unit to said controller in response to an error occurred in said image generator (column 10, lines 48-50) and said controller controls displaying the screen image by said display unit in response to the display request transmitted from said image generator (column 10, lines 50-53).

6. With regard to claim 20, Maniwa discloses the invention as stated in claim 19. Maniwa further discloses wherein said controller halts a communication with said image generator in response to the display request transmitted from said image generator (column 10, lines 54-57).

7. With regard to claim 21, Maniwa discloses an image output method comprising an image generator step of generating image data based upon input data transmitted from an information processing apparatus (column 17, lines 52-53); a controlling step of receiving and controlling output of the image data that has been generated in said image generating step (column 16, lines 29-31); and an image forming step of recording an image on a recording medium based upon the image data inputted in said controlling step. Maniwa further discloses (column 39, lines 16-20) wherein an error in said image generating step is detected in said controlling step and when an

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error has been detected an order to execute initialization or restart said image generation step is issued in said controlling step.

8. With regard to claim 22, Maniwa discloses a ROM, element 132 of figure 12, which is a computer program product capable of being loaded in a memory within a digital computer, said program product including program code for executing each step of the method described in 21.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 2, 4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maniwa in view of Kageyama, *et al.* (J.P.O. 403155974A, see English translation).

With regard to claim 2, Maniwa discloses the invention as stated in claim 1. Maniwa does not disclose wherein said image generator detects the occurrence of a fatal error and so notifies said controller. Kageyama teaches, in lines 6-15 of page 12, that wherein the printer, which is an image generating means, detects the occurrence of a fatal error and so notifies said control means, whereby said control means detects the occurrence of an error in said image generating means. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the controller, wherein said image generator detects the occurrence of a fatal error and so notifies said controller, to detect the occurrence of an error in said image generator. This would provide accurate error detection in the apparatus.

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11. With regard to claim 4, Maniwa discloses the invention as stated in claim 1. Maniwa further discloses, in lines 32-34 of column 39, that the controller halts communication with the image generator upon detection of the occurrence of an error. Maniwa does not disclose the notification of an operator of occurrence of the error. Kageyama teaches, in lines 20-21 of page 12, that the user is notified upon detection of the occurrence of an error before the order to execute initialization is issued. This user notification is inherently done by a display or sound, since those are the only ways a computer can communicate with a user. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to notify the user with a display or sound about the detection of the occurrence of an error before the order to execute initialization is issued to the image generator. This would allow the user the opportunity to fix the error if user intervention were needed.

12. With regard to claim 7, Maniwa discloses the invention as stated in claim 1. Maniwa does not disclose an input unit for allowing an operator to perform an input to reset to recover from an error. Kageyama teaches, in lines 3-4 of page 20, an input unit for allowing an operator to perform an error recovery input causing the control means to issue the image generating means an order to execute initialization. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the apparatus to comprise an input unit for allowing an operator to perform an input; wherein when an order to reset to recover from an error is input by said input means in response to occurrence of the error, the control means issues the image generating means an order to execute initialization. This would allow for an operator to make any necessary adjustments to the apparatus in order to fix the detected error.

13. Claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maniwa in view of McIntyre, *et al.* (5,532,849). With regard to claim 5, Maniwa discloses the invention as stated in claim 1. Maniwa does not disclose a converter for reading in an image and converting the image to image data. McIntyre discloses, as shown in figure 1, a multifunction printing apparatus equipped with a scanner, element 22. An image scanner inherently comprises conversion means for reading in an image and converting the image to image data. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the apparatus to comprise a converter for reading in an image and converting the image to image data. This would yield a single apparatus that provides a plurality of image input/output functions such as copy function and printing function.

14. With regard to claim 6, Maniwa discloses the invention as stated in claim 1. Maniwa does not disclose a unit for sending and receiving image data via a communication line. McIntyre discloses, as shown in figure 1, a multifunction printing apparatus equipped with a facsimile communication function, element 40. A facsimile communication function is inherently a means for sending and receiving image data via a communication line. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the apparatus to comprise a unit for sending and receiving image data via a communication line. This would yield a single apparatus that provides a plurality of image input/output functions such as facsimile function and printing function.

15. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maniwa. Maniwa discloses the invention as stated in claim 1. It is known in the art to transmit page description language and convert it to bit map data for use by a printer. It would have been

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obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the input data transmitted from the information processing apparatus to include data in a page description language, and for said image generator to generate bit map data as the image data based upon the data in the page description language. This would provide a convenient data format for the print engine to print.

### *Response to Arguments*

16. Applicant's arguments filed 1/2/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Maniwa does not teach or suggest an image generator and a controller provided separately. However, the above rejections citing Maniwa recite a printer controller (controller 130, figure 12) that is separate from an image generator (PE unit 90, figure 12), which receives the initialization request from the controller. As such, the above rejections are maintained.

### *Conclusion*

17. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period



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will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Justin Foster whose telephone number is (703)305-1900. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on (703)308-7452. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JF

  
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